

Commonwealth of Virginia  
Department of Social Services



**ONS TRANSMITTAL NUMBER 06-03**

**Date: July 6, 2006**

☐ ACTION ITEM

☒ INFORMATIONAL ITEM

**Subject:** Medicaid Citizenship and Identity Changes Effective July 1, 2006

**To:** ONS Resettlement Provider Directors

**From:** Kathy A. Cooper   
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Virginia Office of Newcomer Services

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The Virginia Department of Social Services' Division of Benefit Programs issued new policy effective July 1, 2006 which makes verification of citizenship and identity a part of the Medicaid eligibility process.

This change does not affect qualified aliens, including refugees, asylees, Amerasians, Victims of Human Trafficking, and Cuban/Haitian entrants.

The official VDSS guidance to eligibility workers reads, in part:

"The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 established a new federal law, effective July 1, 2006, that requires individuals who receive Medicaid as United States citizens to provide proof of citizenship and identity. Individuals applying for Medicaid who have declared that they are United States citizens or nationals must provide documentation of citizenship and identity at the time of application. Individuals currently enrolled in Medicaid must provide documentation of citizenship and identity at the time of their next redetermination for Medicaid completed after July 1, 2006. The new requirements do not affect individuals applying for or enrolled in Medicaid who have declared they are aliens; these individuals have been required to provide documentation of alien status for a number of years. "

If resettlement case managers experience difficulty in the Medicaid application process due to this new requirement, please let Penny Boyd know. ONS and the Division of Benefit Programs want to track difficulties in the implementation of this new guidance.